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NSC BRIEFING

20 December 1960

TO: JAMES H. DOLAN
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CLASS: L
SUBJECT: NEPAL
DATE: 1-31-80
AUTH: HR 70-2
REVIEWER:

NEPAL

- I. King Mahendra's motivation in assuming direct rule on 15 December appears to have stemmed largely from:
- A. His increasing dissatisfaction with Koirala government's lack of progress and apparent inability to maintain law and order.
 - B. His fear that the popular Koirala might one day eclipse or try to overthrow monarchy.
- II. Nearly all leading politicians, including some top Communists, have been rounded up (about 50 thus far); Army remains loyal and populace is quiet.
- III. King apparently plans direct rule for some time, probably with aid of non-political council of ministers.
- A. Foreign policy of non-alignment will continue, though King is apt to be less realistic in dealing with Bloc, perhaps more reserved with West, and more suspicious of Indians.
 - 1. New Delhi was surprised and is highly disturbed at ouster of a government which has 2/3 majority in parliament (74 of 109 seats) and which India had supported.
 - 2. New Delhi seems unable or unwilling to act at this time, however.
 - B. Internally, King will probably be even less effective than Koirala, thus providing Communists with further issues to exploit.
 - C. Outlook is for period of governmental inaction followed by increasing political unrest and economic deterioration.

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